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LB 277, 1085

reputation as the Grinch here. Senator Redfield thinks I already have it. Senator Vrtiska thinks I am. Maybe that's okay. Maybe being a Grinch is okay. But, Senator Redfield, I'm again, as I was with Senator Vrtiska, caught between something I would like to do and something I can't do, and I can't support your amendment and I'm sure you know why. Colleagues, if you will turn to your machine and you will draw up the fiscal note for LB 277, Senator Redfield is indicating that she believes this is appropriate for you to do as well, turn to your machine, draw up the fiscal note for LB 277 and draw up a fiscal note dated January 4, 2002. Now, we might all agree, in fact, I would hope, quite frankly, that we would agree with what Senator Redfield is suggesting as her objective, but her objective comes with a cost and in the Fiscal Year '02-03 that cost is estimated to be \$9.3 million. In Fiscal Year '03-04 that cost is estimated to be seven point...well, if I can round up, \$7.1 million. And at that point my desire to achieve Senator Redfield's goal is swamped by the cost and so I'm not going to be able to support Senator Redfield's amendment on this bill. I would also suggest, however, if there is...if there is a desire to pass Senator Redfield's proposal, that she does have a bill sitting on Final Reading and I know that, Senator Redfield, we needed a chance to discuss the bill and you wouldn't have had that if you would have just asked for it to be brought up on Final Reading, but aside from the opportunity you would have this evening to address this issue on LB 1085, which I hope you will not, if you feel strongly about this issue and you still want to pass this issue and you want to do something about it, signal your intentions to Senator Redfield, she can ask that her bill be taken up on Final Reading, and we could do that in a separate bill. But I really would hope that we would not attempt to attach...that we would not attach this amendment to LB 1085. It has a very high cost regardless of its objectives and we would have another opportunity if Senator Redfield brought the main bill up for Final Reading. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Wehrbein, you are recognized to speak. Senator Wehrbein waives. Senator Landis, you are next.

SENATOR LANDIS: Question.